

Regional Council Activity Report

May 23, 2001

Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director James M. Bourey



Executive Director's Report

Oliver Cromwell, who never lost a single battle in his war efforts to reform England's government, once said: "He who stops being better stops being good."

In an effort to enhance the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), the MAG Regional Council has approved the establishment of a Regional Governance Task Force to pursue ways to further engage MAG in the community. The Task Force will study issues of regional governance, the role and responsibilities of MAG, and MAG membership – including voting membership of the Regional Council and other MAG committees. Potential areas of study could include private sector participation, expansion of membership beyond Maricopa County boundaries, additional public sector participation, voting procedures, and MAG's regional planning responsibilities, including transit planning.

Under the adopted motion, the Task Force will be comprised of 11 members, including mayors and city managers, who will be appointed by the Regional Council Chairman. No city or town will be allowed more than one representative on the committee. The motion also called for the creation of a subcommittee of the Task Force that will include representatives of the business community, the state legislature and the public, so that their input on governance will be considered in discussions by the Task Force.

During discussion of the motion, many Regional Council members expressed their support for broadening participation in MAG, yet calling for careful deliberation before significant structural changes are made. The Task Force will prepare a progress report within 60 days of its first meeting, and a final report will be due no later than the end of the calendar year. The Task Force may request consulting services once the scope of work is more clearly defined.

This should be viewed as an important step forward by our organization. Change is not always easy to instigate – or to embrace. The creation of this study committee is an important step toward adapting to our rapidly-changing times. It is heartening to know that we are in sync with an evolving region, and willing to look at ourselves to see how we can complement that evolution.



Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Council approves Closeout of Federal Funds

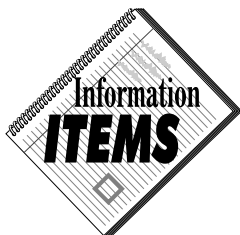
The MAG Regional Council has approved the interim closeout of FY 2001 MAG federal funds, which must be obligated in this fiscal year. For this phase of the closeout, approximately \$13.8 million was available, with over \$16 million in project requests received. The approval of the recommendations will allow for additional and accelerated transportation projects to be funded in the MAG region. Projects cover a wide range of improvements, including construction of pedestrian and bicycle improvements, the purchase of PM-10 certified street sweepers, a Commuter Rail Study, and regional studies for the Southeast, Southwest and Northwest areas of the Valley.

For more information, contact Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, (602) 254-6300.

Budget and Work Program Approved

Each year MAG develops a Work Program and Annual Budget for the coming year. The document provides funders, staff and the public with the Regional Council's policy direction and fiscal commitments in the agency's regional planning efforts. The Council approved the FY 2002 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The Regional Council also asked for two seminars to be held when the document is put together in FY 2003. One seminar would examine policy requirements and new projects, the second would examine allocating funds in the budget.

For more information contact Rebecca Kimbrough, MAG Fiscal Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Finalists Selected for Desert Peaks Awards

Finalists have been announced for the Fourth Annual Maricopa Association of Governments Desert Peaks Awards. More than forty nominations were received for consideration for the prestigious annual awards. Judges rated the entries on a variety of factors, including whether they demonstrate a commitment to regionalism. Finalists were named in five categories.

In the Public Partnership Category, finalists include:

- ◆ Arizona Governmental Training Service
- ◆ New Life Center
- ◆ Spur Cross Ranch – Acquisition and Preservation

In the category of Public-Private Partnership, finalists include:

- ◆ Maricopa Association of Governments Domestic Violence Council
- ◆ Preservation of Luke Air Force Base
- ◆ Regional Freeway Service Patrol Program
- ◆ S.M.I.L.E. (Safety Magic in Law Enforcement)
- ◆ West Valley Recreation Corridor

Distinguished Service Award finalists include:

- ◆ Tom Canasi, Human Services Manager, City of Tempe
- ◆ John Keegan, Mayor, City of Peoria
- ◆ Debbie Kohn, Telecommunications Policy Coordinator, City of Scottsdale
- ◆ William S. MacDonald, President, MacDonald Direct Marketing
- ◆ Jim Wortham, Computer Aided Dispatch Administrator, City of Phoenix Fire Department (Retired)

In the category of Regional Partnership, finalists include:

- ◆ Acceleration of Regional Freeway Program;
- ◆ Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant – Safe Schools; and the
- ◆ Valleywide Recycling Partnership.

A single finalist was named in the Regional Excellence category: the Honorable Frank X. Gordon, Chief Justice, Arizona Supreme Court (Retired).

Recipients of the awards will be announced during the Fourth Annual Desert Peaks Awards ceremony Thursday, June 21 at the Phoenix Airport Marriott Hotel, 1101 N. 44th Street, Phoenix. The awards evening will follow the MAG Regional Council Annual Meeting. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. MAG Chairman Skip Rimsza will deliver the annual State of the Region address during the awards dinner. The emcee for the evening will be Jeanne Rohrer, Anchor, KNXV-TV ABC 15. Desert Peaks reservations may be made by calling (602) 254-6300. Cost is \$45 per person.

For more information contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council meeting will be the MAG Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 21, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Airport Marriott Hotel, 1101 N. 44th Street, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include election of officers; requested changes to the Regional Freeway Program; Draft 208 Plan Amendment for the City of Phoenix North Gateway Water Reclamation Plant; and amending the FY 2001 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to add \$35,000 in Social Services Block Grant Funds to develop a Web site for Human Services Planners and Funders. The Regional Council meeting will be followed by the Desert Peaks Awards Evening.

For more information contact Dennis Smith, MAG Assistant Director, (602) 254-6300.